

App. No. 10/055646
Office Action Dated August 2, 2004
Amd. Dated October 21, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 2 and 3 are hereby amended. Allowable claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in claim 1 and claim 2 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 3. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-15 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-15.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (US 2001/0006827). This rejection is rendered moot as claim 1 has been canceled and claim 2 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 3. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Michael D. Schumann, Reg. No. 30,422, at (612) 336.4638.

Respectfully submitted,

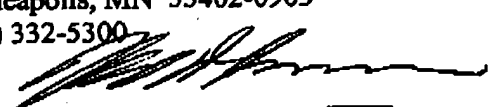


Dated: October 21, 2004

MDS:mmm

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By


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